IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kaoru FUKUDA et al

Serial No.: New Application

Filed: April 10, 2002

For: SOLID POLYMER FUEL CELL

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Atty. Docket No.: 107348-00224

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 10, 2002

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) A solid polymer fuel cell according to claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein ion-exchange capacity Ic of the phyllosilicate particles satisfies $Ic \geq 0.5$ meq/g.

8. (Amended) A solid polymer fuel cell according to claim 3, 4 or 5, wherein aggregation diameter D of the phyllosilicate particles satisfies $D \leq 100$ μm.

REMARKS

The above amendment to the claims has been made to correct the multiple dependency of the claims and to put the application in better condition for examination. A marked-up copy which shows the amendments being made to the claims is enclosed.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Marked-up copy

5. A solid polymer fuel cell according to claim 4, wherein the smectite mineral particle is at least one kind selected from montmorillonite, saponite, hectorite, stevensite, and vermiculite, and the synthetic mica particle is at least either fluorotetrasilicic mica or teniolite.

6. A solid polymer fuel cell according to claim 3, 4, or 5, wherein content L of the phyllosilicate particles satisfies $L \leq 10$ % by weight.

7. A solid polymer fuel cell according to claim 3, 4, or 5, [or 6,] wherein ion-exchange capacity Ic of the phyllosilicate particles satisfies $Ic \geq 0.5$ meq/g.

8. A solid polymer fuel cell according to claim 3, 4, or 5, [6 or 7,] wherein aggregation diameter D of the phyllosilicate particles satisfies $D \leq 100$ μm.